

Date: May 30, 2012

To: Principal Bentley

From: Ms. Karla-Renaé Harris, English Teacher

RE: New Mentoring Program for grades 9-12

As a teacher in this school it is difficult not to notice the issues that plague the community in which this school is located. Our students who live in this community are constantly at-risk to dropping out of high school, low self-esteem, substance abuse, little to no support system from family and friends, and teen pregnancy which are just a few issues amongst many others. To keep in line with the school's goals to keep a high retention rate while maintaining a low drop-out rate and to prepare our students for post-secondary education, I propose implementing an in-school mentoring program for 9th-12th graders which will address these issues and help students work through them.

The year-long program will assist in students creating and achieving educational as well as personal goals. It will also create activities in which the parents can participate with their children to build better and stronger relationships. These positive relationships can affect the educational and personal achievement of the students. Not only will students be able to have an additional support system after school but they will also analyze and interpret reading material that will consist of necessary tools they need to achieve both educational and individual life goals. Students will partake in activities established by the program including college tours and create life goals using positive thinking. After completing the year-long program, students will have to give a presentation on what affected them the most in the program and what they learned. Finally, students who complete the program will be invited to volunteer in following sessions so they can continue to grow and learn how to give back to their community and reach out to others.

As a previous mentor at a couple of high schools, I know of some mentoring programs and their curriculum. For teachers who are interested in becoming mentors, they must undergo training at no expense to the school. I will need your support as well as the support of the School Board and the parents of the students who want to be a part of the program. I have connections with program directors who are willing to assist me with college tours as a means to keep everything cost efficient. Mentoring programs are already being done in many states but there are not many within a school. With our program being inside the school and after school, this alleviates excessive traveling to the sessions and attendance problems unless notified that the student will not be present. I have a program curriculum from an existing mentoring program in which I am affiliated and I would like to go over the implementation of this program with you. Please contact me at your earliest convenience so we can further discuss this in-school opportunity for our students' futures.

Sincerely,

Ms. Karla-Renaé Harris